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# Pequannock Township

1740 — 1956







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# PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

1740 — 1956

A Town's Growth In Words And Pictures

*To Commemorate the*

*Dedication*

*of the*

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

*September Twenty-ninth*

*Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-six*

Carl Irving Edwards

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PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY



## INTRODUCTION

Public interest in a complete history of Pequannock Township would undoubtedly be as great as the size of the volume required to adequately set forth the events of the past 250 years.

"The manner in which the past is sometimes spoken of would almost lead one to infer that it has embodied all truth and righteousness, and that all wisdom and good conduct have since failed from the earth. Such extravagance is unwise and mischievous. The past is good as a teacher, but not safe or proper as a resting place. The wisest and best men have been those who were neither slavish in their subjection to the past, nor heedless of the many lessons which it teaches. Progress is the watchword of improvement, and by listening to it the world has arrived at her present stage of advanced perfection in almost every branch of human wisdom, while to have rested would have prevented all."<sup>1</sup>

The dedication of Pequannock Township's first "Town Hall" or Municipal Building, serves both as an expression of appreciation of our heritage and an affirmation of faith in the future of our Country, County and Township.

Today we salute the many friends who have lived here all their lives, some of them direct descendants of the original settlers, and we extend friendly greetings to those who have more recently "discovered" Pequannock Township.

This booklet, will of necessity, record only some of the historical highlights, interesting data and observations concerning the past twenty-five decades.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to many friends for their assistance, time, information and for the loan of their valuable pictures and documents. Their names and contributions are recorded at the close of this booklet.

# *For the Beginning*

New Jersey History from John S. Cabot's landing in North America on June 24, 1497 and the claiming of the land for King Henry VII of England, to the year 1702 when all land titles were vested in the "General Proprietors of the Eastern Division of New Jersey" has been set forth at length in all New Jersey Historical works

## ORIGINAL SETTLERS

The Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indian Tribes were found engaged in their peaceful pursuits along the rivers of Northern New Jersey when Arent Schuyler, the first white traveler, discovered and reported the "wonderous beautiful valley" drained by the Pompton River.

Calling the various tribes by the Indian name of their favorite stream, Arent Schuyler, Anthony Brockholst, and Nickolos Bayard purchased on June 6, 1695 from the Indian natives: Iaepeg-ragnap, Mantiem Wickwam, Roakham-Sieha-wawejagin, Onageponck-Hielawith of Poquanick and Pompton, and Sajapogh Sachem of Minnising; all territories bounded by the Passaic River on the South, the "Poquanick" on the North, and the "foot of the hills" on East and West.

Schuyler and Brockholst on December 2, 1696 purchased from the "Proprietor of East New Jersey" (title holders of the soil by grant from King Charles II) 1500 acres on the West side of the Poquanick River. Anticipating disputes between the proprietors of "East and West Jersey" a deed had been obtained from the West Jersey proprietors on September 22, 1696. This deed covered the same property purchased from the Indians, and on March 20, 1697 they conveyed a one third interest to Nickolos Bayard.

Thus, the original owners; the Wippanongs, the Pom-pe-tans, the Poquanicks, the Rockawacks and other Indians sold their land, and by 1750 were reported to have disappeared entirely from Morris County.

A favorite Indian camping spot must have been the highest ground on the Plains just North of Woodland Place. Max Swabish, an "itinerant piano teacher," with an uncanny, keen eye for Indian relics (having collected over 2,000) told the writer that a majority of his finds came from the old Van Gelder, Ryerson and Berry properties. Along the "last bank from the river" small black flint chips still occasionally are found, presenting a noticeable contrast to the native sand and gravel deposited by waters of the great "Lake Passaic."



In 1696-1697 Arent Schuyler and Anthony Brockholst actually formed the first white settlement in the Valley on the East side of the River (Pompton Falls). The Dutch settlers, George Ryerson, John Mead, Samuel Berrie (Berry), David and Hendrick Mandeville, began locating in Morris County at Pompton Plains as early as 1700.

On "the 9th day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand and Seven hundred and fourteen, and in the first year of the Reigne of Our Sovereign Lord George King of Great Britain" a deed was given by "Samuel Bayard of the City of New York, Merchant Sole heire and executor of his father Nickolos Bayard late of the said city Deceased to Matthias De Mott of the County of Bergen, Blacksmith and Bastien Van Giesen of the County of Essex." Bayard received the sum of "Four Hundred Pounds Current money of the province of New York" for his remaining one-third interest in the 1500 acre tract on which our new Municipal Building is located. The original deed, beautifully written on sheepskin, is exhibited in its lobby through the courtesy of William J. F. Hannemann whose late wife, Eva DeMott-Hannemann, was a direct descendant of Matthias DeMott.

The Morris County area continued to be settled with Germans in the Southwestern part (German Valley — now Long Valley) and by the English at and about Mendham. By 1722 the Morris County settlements were sufficiently established to merit a request that they bear their part of the cost of government.

Hunterdon County (Trenton, the County Seat) had, in 1737, 5288 whites and 219 slaves with about one-third of the population located in the Northern section now embraced by Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties.

Agitation for a separate County government was successful in March 15, 1738, with the adoption of legislation creating Morris County, so named in honor of Colonel Lewis Morris, then Governor and the first to hold that office after New Jersey's separation from New York.

On June 8, 1753, by Act of the Legislature, the boundaries of Morris County were redefined and these have continued to the present day.



## For Worship

*"One religion is as true as another."*—Robert Burton (1577-1640)

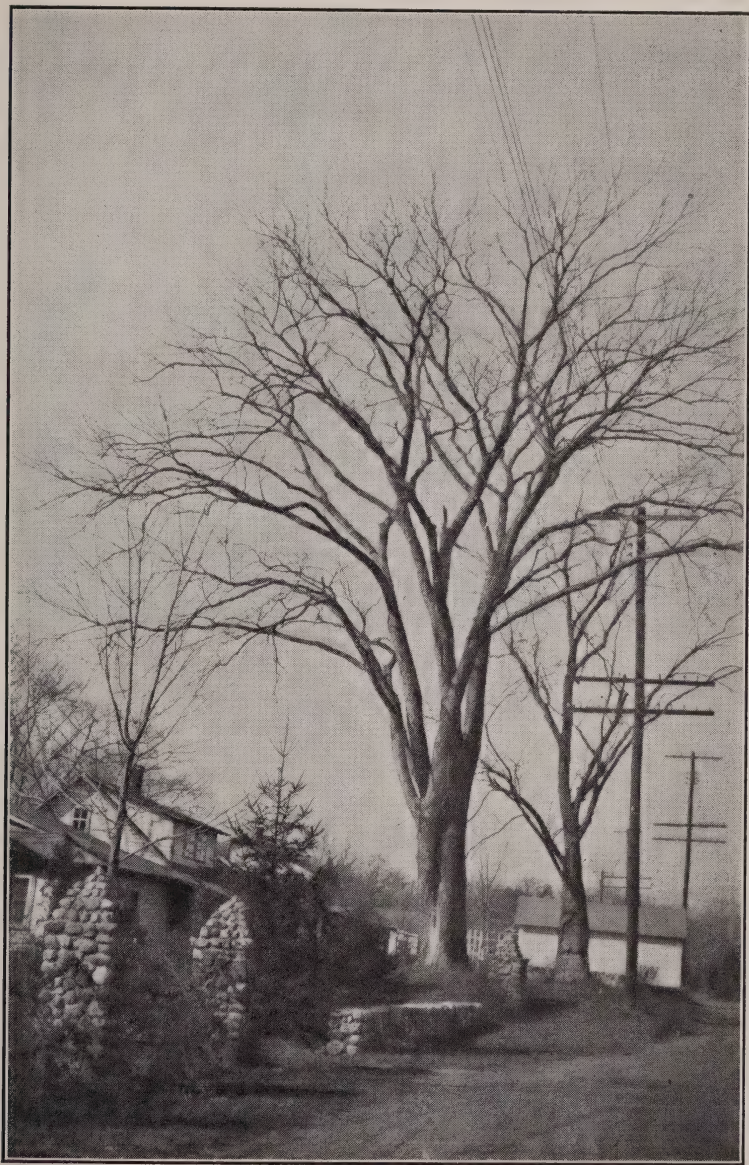
In addition to the original purchasers heretofore mentioned, the first settlers about 1700; Vanderbeck, Van Ness, Bayard, Roome, Rycker, Van Gelder, Slingerland, De Bow, De Mott, Vanderbeck, and Jones from New York, Hackensack, Acquackanonk (Now Passaic) and Bergen, were mostly members of the Dutch Reformed Churches established at those places.



"We have reasons to believe this illustration to be an acceptable, fac-simile of the first church, organized April 7, 1736, because of the source from which it was secured and the published descriptions in ancient history connected with the civic and ecclesiastical life of our community and surrounding vicinities."<sup>1</sup>



A Church was erected on the "high ground near a fording place in the river."



This location, referred to in the historical discourses of former ministers, presented this appearance in 1936, and is now on Shore Road in the Riverview Section of Wayne Township.

It was just North of the old Morris Canal Feeder Lock at "Schuyler's Basin" (Jackson Avenue),



and South of the Colfax Homestead on the Hamburg Turnpike, now Pompton Falls, in Wayne Township.





Here General George and Martha Washington frequently enjoyed the Schuyler hospitality for weeks at a time. His Captain (and later General) Colfax married Hester, grand-daughter of Arent Schuyler. It is in this dwelling that George Colfax was born and baptized while held in the arms of Washington. Here too was born Schuyler Colfax who became Vice-President of the United States, serving under President Grant.

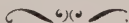
The brownstone steps of the 1736 church have been preserved to this day as part of the Field Stone Entrance posts to the Graham Farm on the North side of Jackson Avenue opposite the old "brownstone quarry lot" at "Schuyler's Basin." Mrs. Graham advises that she has no objection to the removal of these ancient stones so that they may be re-installed in a place of honor and safety at the present church.

The First Church on the Plains was "located a little back of the lot formerly owned by William Provost — opposite the residence of Thomas Mandeville." (See page 40.) It was erected in 1760 when a split occurred in the church, one faction supporting the Conferentie (ministers ordained in Holland), the other, the Coetus (those ordained in America). The minister at that time was Rev. David Marinus of the latter group. A new residence, 672 Newark-Pompton Turnpike, now stands in front of the site of this church erected in 1760 for Rev. Marinus. It remained in use until "steps were taken to unite the two parties and build a new church for the accommodation of all." Therefore, in 1771 a new church was built on the present site opposite our new Town Hall. The land was conveyed to the church by Tunis Dey for "the consideration of fifteen schillings lawful money of New Jersey." Specifications read "that the church shall be built forty feet broad and fifty feet long, with two galleries."

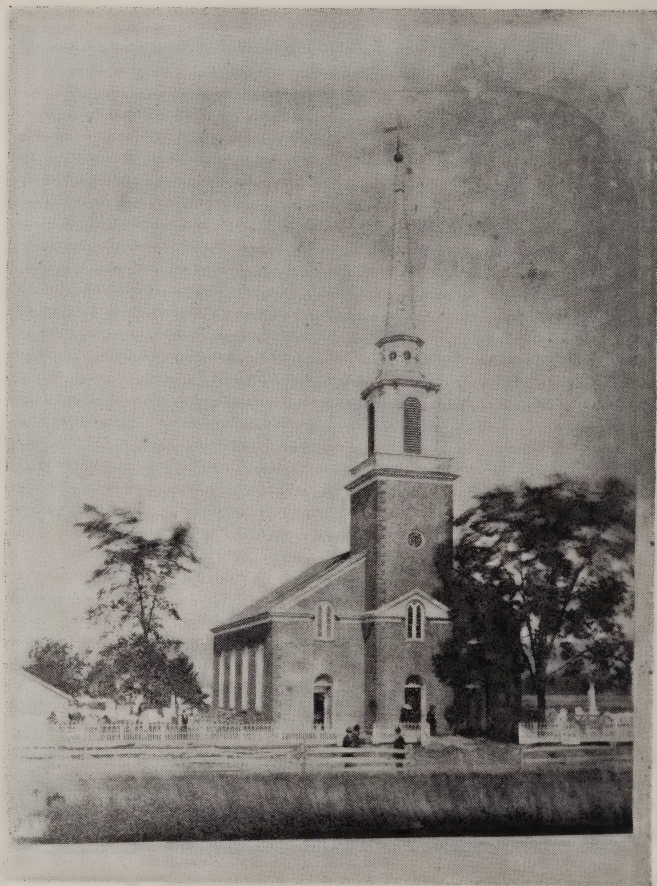
During the Revolution the Reformed Church was served by the Reverend Hermanus Meier, D.D. Of him the Reverend John Van Neste Schenck said, "Few men stood higher in the opinion of the churches at large, and were more generally beloved." He was a firm patriot and preached upon the topics of the day in such a manner as to rouse the patriotism of the people to a pronounced height of enthusiasm. Dr. Meier has the honor of being the only minister entombed in the church. His remains lie near the center of the present structure.

In 1813 the church was "extended sixteen feet towards the road, with a steeple in the East end, the walls raised in proportion and the windows raised so as to cover the galleries."

The year 1870 saw the last enlargement of what is known today as the "Old Church." A fifth window was added on each side and a recess built for the pulpit.







The Reformed Dutch Church 1813-1870



"The Old Church" about 1900

It is interesting to note that not one, but two fieldstone foundations with remains of wooden flag poles were uncovered opposite the church during installation of the Turnpike storm drainage.



Grace Chapel, now used as the Pompton Plains Library, was built in the 1870's during the pastorate of the Reverend Joseph H. Whitehead. It was erected on ground purchased from Ralph Van Houten on November 1, 1869.



For many years the people of Pequannock had been holding their religious services and Sabbath school in the public school building, while all other outlying districts had new and modern chapels. On July 23, 1898, the Reverend Jasper S. Hogan, then minister of the Plains church, caused land to be purchased on the east side of the river upon which was erected the present Pequannock Reformed Church.



"Ground was promptly broken for the new edifice with the Dominee (for he was then just a plain country parson) getting in the trenches himself, properly clad for the occasion, and setting an example of muscular activity in the use of the pick and the spade."<sup>1</sup>





The Church House which adjoins the present church was erected in 1926. On Thanksgiving Day, 1927 the entire indebtedness of \$22,500 was liquidated by the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Halsey Peck in memory of their parents.



The Old Church, except for the addition of memorial windows of stained glass, remained as it was in 1870 until Sunday morning, October 24, 1937, when all but the outer walls was destroyed by fire. The loss of the historic Church building is best described by direct quotations from Dominee Keator's "Historical Sketch" from the day of its burning to the day of its Dedication—Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939."

"On that fateful morning at about seven o'clock our beloved church was discovered to be burning by Charles A. Van Ness, who resided west of the church. When the firemen arrived on the scene the entire interior of the building was a mass of flame and smoke. In addition to our local fire companies, six others from neighboring communities quickly appeared and rendered valuable assistance. The firemen were seriously handicapped by the absence of water supply, and not until a hose was laid to the Spring Brook, about a half mile away, could they do more than use the limited quantity of water furnished by the attending tanks. It was then too late to save the church, but not too late to save the church house. Be it said, however, that obviously the building had been burning for several hours in a stifling condition, so that when first discovered the flames had made such progress that extinguishment without at least a partial loss was impossible even with an ample water supply."

"In less than ten minutes after the first fire truck reached the scene the ten stained glass windows exploded under the terrific heat. And in less than an hour after the alarm was sounded the flames had engulfed the 128-foot steeple, one of the not more than four examples of Christopher Wren architecture in this country, which finally fell a living flame directly across the highway, severing eight of the eleven wires on the opposite side, causing normal service to be abandoned for at least three hours. Placidly that tapering white spire rose above the tree-tops, picturesquely accentuating the leafy greenery of the full-foliaged trees in close proximity, appearing like a bit of New England transplanted in New Jersey. So charming was that unexpected sight in this drab world of ours where charm is so often misunderstood and unappreciated, that motorists have oftentimes stopped beside the roadway to enjoy the full effect and drink in the satisfying picture of sylvan simplicity and delicate artistry."

"With the assurance that the church was doomed, the firemen directed their united efforts on preventing the church house from suffering the same fate. Although but thirty feet from the church, the loss of that building was averted, but damaged to the extent of about six hundred dollars. Fortunately the wind was blowing but a gentle breeze, and even that in an opposite direction. Also happily, the steeple fell directly across the highway, again saving the church house by not falling on it. As a preventive caution, all the furniture was taken from the church house, but after the flames had subsided sufficiently to assure the passing of danger the furniture was replaced. According to estimates given by insurance adjusters who examine burned buildings daily, the siding adjacent to the church was burned sufficiently in depth to warrant the statement that the building escaped suffering a similar fate by a margin of not more than ten minutes."

Faced with a disaster that would have laid low a younger minister, Dominie Keator began, the very night of the fire, to rebuild the church—*without a debt*—this he did.

The Church was rebuilt under the direction of the late Hobart B. Upjohn, LL.D. of New York City, described as "America's greatest Colonial architect" and coincidentally by the same Bert Vandenberg who has just completely our "Town Hall."

As Rev. Fred E. Foertner from 1910-1924 fulfilled the spiritual needs by walking in familiar fellowship with youth as he earnestly guided and befriended the needy of all ages, so Rev. Keator from 1925-1946 filled the material need by combining his abilities of administration with the ministry. Few are the heads of churches who could do so much in so short a time with such little help.



A plaque erected in the church reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE REV. EUGENE H. KEATOR, D.D.  
1865 1946

Under whose Pastoral Care 1925-1946, the Congregation  
BUILT THE CHURCH HOUSE  
BEAUTIFIED THE CEMETERY  
RE-BUILT THE SANCTUARY  
CANCELLED ALL INDEBTEDNESS  
EVANGELIST - ADMINISTRATOR - PASTOR  
HE ESTABLISHED THE CHURCH

"Strength and Beauty are in His Sanctuary"

Rev. Edwin Thomas Jones, 1946 to date, also has greatly contributed to the needs of the present town. He has served the Hospital from its inception and moved the parsonage to the old Giles A. Mandeville home to form a compact church unit. A campaign will soon start to provide additional rooms on the Church House for needed Church School expansion.





The Roman Catholic Church of 1786 was located on Barclay Street, New York City and in 1821 St. John's became the first church in Paterson, to be followed in 1875 by Our Lady of the Angels Church in Singac.

"With the laying of the cornerstone of St. Anthony's Church in Butler in 1892 (Butler was then part of Pequannock Township) seems to have marked a halt in this progress, lasting about 25 years."<sup>2</sup>

After World War I, St. Joseph's in Lincoln Park (then part of the Township) was built and bus service was later established to this church for the Pequannock parishioners.

On Sunday, June 30, 1946 the first Mass was celebrated in the Pequannock Firehouse with more than 200 in attendance. After June 15, 1947 Sunday Masses continued uninterruptedly thereafter until February 5, 1950.

Father John E. Hewetson really started the new church movement on October 22, 1948 at a Friday night meeting in the Firehouse. From this meeting went forth twenty people securing pledges, and in three weeks \$10,000 was subscribed.

The first portion of the present church property was purchased in April 1949. Some two years previous, the center of the Catholic population in Pequannock had been pin-pointed as being between Della and Caroline Avenues, bounded by Albert and Paul Streets. Thus, the property purchased was ideally located.

The official ceremony of blessing and breaking ground for the Church of the Holy Spirit was held on Labor Day, Monday, September 5, 1950 with Father John E. Hewetson officiating. It is recorded that "more than two hundred people were present including all members of the Township Committee and other officials."

On Sunday, February 12, 1950 the first Mass was read by Father Hewetson in the new, but not entirely finished Church. Dedication ceremonies were held Sunday, June 18, 1950.

Under the direction of Father Joseph Brestel a substantial two-story brick Rectory was erected in 1955. Father John Dericks succeeded Father Brestel to become the rectory's first occupant.



At this writing a modern Parochial School is under construction (shown by picture taken August 19, 1956) north of the Church under the direction of Father John Dericks whose industrious service and pleasant personality continues the worthy accomplishments of his predecessors.





Grace Church was originally a Sunday School in the home of Mr. William Lowe. After three years, in 1936, the Pequannock Fire House was used for classes. Under the leadership of its first pastor, Kenneth Drennan, the church was moved to the building near the Pequannock Depot. During the pastorate of its second minister, Raymond Hopper, property on First Street was purchased as a site for a permanent edifice. In June of 1953 the new church was dedicated and services held for the first time.





## *For Transportation*

One of our first roads crossed the river by the ford and later by De Mott's Bridge opposite the north end of Pequannock Avenue and "thence by the High Ground" to the former H. H. De Mott Place (North end of Greenwood Avenue) and so along the top of the last bank from the river to the Henry B. De Mott Place.



This is a picture of the De Mott Place, as it looked about 1875. (North of the First Aid Squad Building, West side of Route 23.) This home, built in 1735, was occupied until 1903 and demolished in 1925.

Our first road *from* the river ran west along the present Jefferson Street to the "King's Highway" and was declared a public road by "road Return" A61-2. By similar "returns" Mountain Avenue, then called "Stony Brook Road" and later "Saw Mill Road," as well as Sunset Road, called the "road from the Dutch Church grounds to Boonton" were declared public roads in 1774.

Jackson Avenue was established in 1789 from "the main road across Pompton Plains to the Pequannock River" and continued into Passaic County to meet the Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike at Jackson's Tavern, and for years was well traveled and known as the "Road to Jackson's."



Probably an old Ackerson House on Stony Brook Road

The "publick road through the Plains" was laid out along the old Schuyler-Brockholst "north and south line" in 1790. It ran "from the house of John De Bow, Esq." at the "great bend in the Pequannock River" (near the home of Robert Magnus) to "the Swamp where the path is now near the house of John De Mott." (Now the location of the Pequannock School.) This road is mentioned in another "return" (A105) as "the King's Highway leading from Morristown to Ringwood." It became part of the Newark-Pompton Turnpike which was established by an act of the legislature in 1806.

In 1909, over a hundred years after its authorization, the Newark-Pompton Turnpike was paved with "Macadam" for a width of 14 feet. It received further improvements in 1919 when, as State Highway Route 8, a concrete pavement 18 feet in width was constructed from the Pequannock Bridge to "Slater's Corner" in Riverdale. Shortly thereafter "auto bus" routes were established over the Turnpike from Butler to Newark and by way of Mountain View to Paterson. In the roaring twenties Clarence Chamberlain (of early Atlantic crossing fame) and other pilots flew their "orange crates" from the field now covered by Della, Caroline, and Banta Avenues. Sunday crowds impeded public travel to the extent that the Township Committee, in August 1923, passed an ordinance to control and license "airplane exhibitions, aviation or flying exhibitions and *like amusements*."

The horse and carriages, shown in our old Turnpike pictures, were replaced to the extent that by 1929, Sunday afternoon traffic was stalled on "Route 23-Rev. 1927," through Pompton Plains to the cross-road at Singac. (Old Route 6). State Highway 6 (now 46) was relocated and in 1935 Route 23 was constructed in its present location.



With the building of the Chilton Memorial Hospital, the Township Committee immediately proposed to the County Board of Freeholders that, of necessity, the Turnpike be resurfaced (it having been returned to the County by the State) from curb to curb which, along with sidewalks, would be provided at the expense of the Turnpike property owners. Two very fine sections of this improvement have been completed and before 1958 the Turnpike should again present a new and finer appearance. A great contrast to Schuyler's "North-South Line" depicted on the map of 1795 which is exhibited through the courtesy of Newell Harrison, C.E. of Butler.

The Morris Canal was built in 1825 and enlargements in 1840-60 increased the cost to a total of \$5,100,000. On the canal there were 28 locks and 23 inclined planes. In crossing the state, a boat, the largest 70 tons, traveled 2,134 feet vertically and 102.15 miles horizontally, taking ten days for a round trip. The canal was of great service to Northern Jersey for half a century, its best year being 1866, when over 800,000 tons of freight was transported.

The Greenwood Lake Reservoir was built and the Pompton Feeder constructed to carry additional water needed in the main canal at Mountain View, then called Mead's Basin. In connection with this project, the Colfax Bridge (on Dawes' Highway in Pompton Falls) was constructed. A plaque thereon reads:

"The Ramapo River was improved for slack water navigation and a bridge was erected near this point by the Morris Canal and Banking Company in 1836 under an agreement with General William Colfax, who, as major had commanded General Washington's Guard in the Revolutionary War. He then owned this land which has been taken up in 1695 by Arent Schuyler founder of Pompton, respected by the Indians, and a valiant captain in the Colonial Wars."

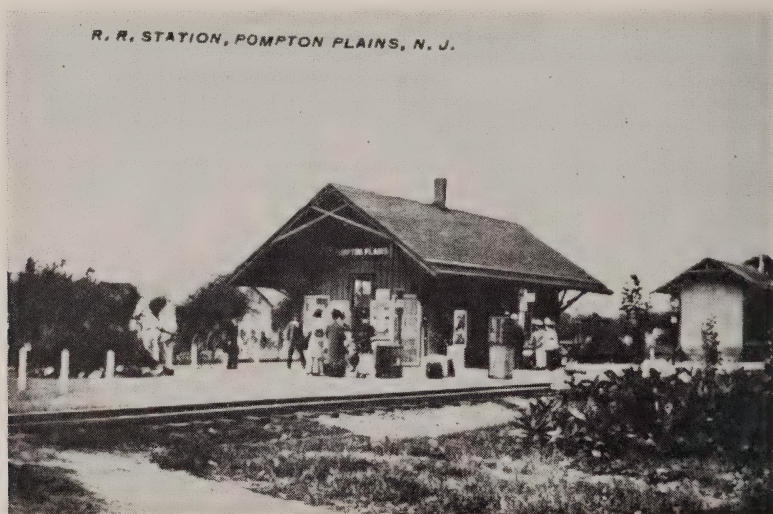
Local business developed with added tonnage from the Ryerson Iron Works at Pompton Falls.



The Railroad Station shortly after completion

An act of the legislature, March 18, 1867, approved and authorized "The Montclair Railroad Company" and on October 5, 1875 a similar approval was given the "Montclair and Greenwood Lake Railroad Company."

The earliest picture of the Pompton Plains Station shows ungraded cinders, a wooden platform and no house for freight nor bench for passengers; but improvements came about and a picture in the days before World War I shows an uncommon amount of activity—"social and business."



James R. Evans, one of the early "Station Agents", lived at the corner of the Turnpike and Evans Place. Telegraph wires ran from the railroad station to the present building at that location. His son and daughter were telegraphers and hence day and night service was provided and Pompton Plains had a direct wire to the nation. Mr. Evans, at his own expense and initiative, built the concrete sidewalk along the entire length of Evans Place, thus earning the undying, if unspoken, gratitude of hundreds of old time commuters. Its smooth surface provided sure footing for the last frantic dash to the train (usually with the unfinished business of dressing in one hand and unfinished breakfast in the other), and its straight alignment helped the late homecomer—traveling at times by dead reckoning and without lights.



# *For Country*

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

12 March 1776—At a town meeting a committee of observation was appointed for the purpose of watching closely those who were active in favoring the cause of King George III. As the war progressed, frequent robberies and murders were committed within the borders of the Township. Tories left their homes to join the British forces while others remained to act as spies and informers.

It was directly after the capture of Burgoyne in 1777 that part of Washington's troops, mostly Germans, were encamped on the Plains. Some were quartered below the residence on the estate of Ralph Van Houten (Wilrue Parkway and Franklin Avenue).

In 1780 and 1781 the American troops went into winter quarters at Pompton Falls, while the French troops were encamped on the meadows lying east of the Van Ness residence overlooking Pompton Plains Village directly in the rear of our new Town Hall.



Garret M. Van Ness House as it appeared in 1939

The baggage wagons of the French were stationed on the site of Giles A. Mandeville's home, now remodeled and used as the Reformed Church Parsonage.



The Mandeville Home in its centennial year 1888

General Washington and General Lafayette made their headquarters at this time in the Colfax Mansion near the Falls. Frequently they were entertained at the homes of the Mandevilles on the Plains and General Washington undoubtedly worshipped at the Reformed Dutch Church.

## CIVIL WAR

In the early part of 1861, when the Southern states were organizing for open rebellion, had declared their purpose of setting up another government, and were preparing to fire on Fort Sumter, the people of Pequannock were not slow to manifest their loyalty to the republic and to the unity of the nation. It is recorded that "on every prominent corner and at every hamlet poles were erected and the national banner, that emblem of unity and liberty, was floated to the breeze."

During the war, Pequannock Township furnished 888 men for the Union army, of whom 547 were volunteers and 341 substitutes. A monument to these men was erected and stands on Main Street in Boonton. On the base, which is seven feet ten inches square, is the date of its erection (4 July 1876), and above the face of the die the following inscription:

"Erected by the people of 'Old Pequannock' in grateful remembrance of their fellow citizens who volunteered in defense of the Union in the war of 1861-1865."

Records do not indicate the number of casualties from Pequannock Township. However, it has been estimated, on the percentage basis established by this horrible conflict that some 53 persons from the Township must have made the supreme sacrifice.



## WORLD WAR I

When Woodrow Wilson advised the Congress to declare war, our citizens once again illustrated their loyalty to the country they loved by promptly answering the call for volunteers.

"We may faintly visualize our village assuming a gala attire in bidding our boys farewell and a safe return; but while extolling the patriotism of the young men who were about to go forth to defend their nation's flag, can also feel that beneath it all there was a sense of solemnity at the great sacrifice they were about to make."<sup>1</sup>

At the close of the war the Township promptly caused to be erected, on the church grounds, a monument dedicated to our 126 men who served the nation. For the six men whose bodies today sleep in France an equal number of evergreen Coster spruces were planted as emblems of their immortality:

Clarence Brown  
John Lookhoff  
Earl Mabey

Rob Roy MacGregor  
Robert McKelvey  
Marvin Gerald Winters



World War I Memorial

## WORLD WAR II

Again the boys answered the old men's call to arms and many were in service before the tragedy of Pearl Harbor was allowed to awaken our country.

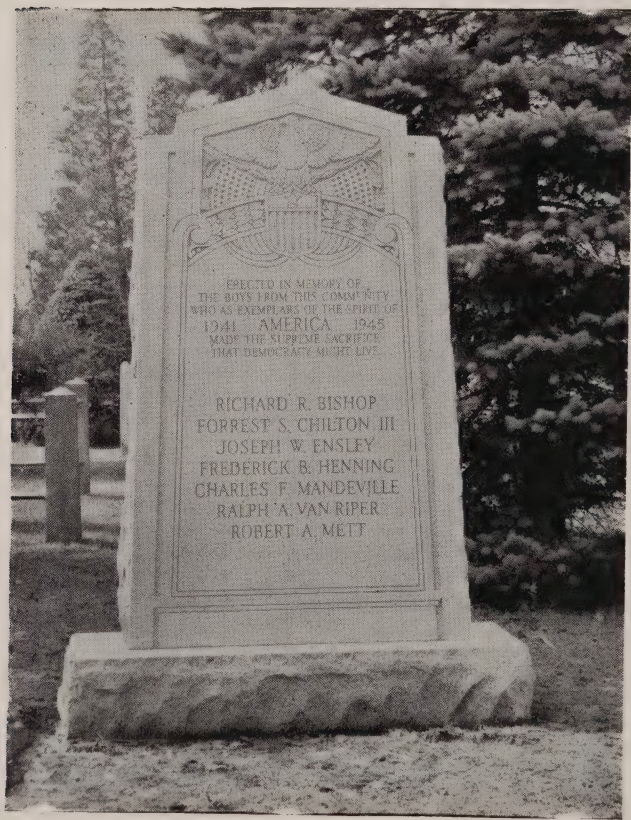
Again with the securing of victory it was recorded that Pequannock Township was represented in service.

And again a monument was erected on the church grounds "In memory of the boys from this community who as exemplars of the spirit of 1941, America 1945 made the supreme sacrifice that Democracy might live."

Richard R. Bishop  
Forrest S. Chilton III  
Joseph W. Ensley

Frederick B. Henning  
Charles F. Mandeville  
Ralph A. Van Riper

Robert A. Mett



World War II Memorial



## *For Education*

'Tis education forms the common mind:  
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

Moral Essays—Alexander Pope  
(1688-1744)

It is said that the first school building stood "on the corner by Garret De Mott's Place" where the present Pequannock School now stands. In succeeding years, however, the schools were located in the Plains. Not until 1923 was another school established at Pequannock, and then appeared as a four room building. It reached its present size in 1928 when rooms were added to the south.



Several years prior to 1800 the first school was founded in Pompton Plains, being located on the site of the present Grace Chapel. A portion of the people, becoming dissatisfied with this school, erected a house half a mile north of the Reformed Church opposite the Thomas Mandeville Homestead, pictured on page 40. From 1807-1812 this building was used for educational purposes, classes being taught by David Provost.

To promote better education, "The Union Academy of Pompton Plains" was formed in 1812. In all probability a small building was erected between the present school site and the lane to Garret M. VanNess' dwelling. (Later called Brown's Lane.) This would seem to agree with a deed recorded at the Morris County Clerk's Office.

A subscription paper was circulated in 1819 to raise money for a two-story building "30 feet in length and 22 feet in breadth." The building, so provided for, was erected on the very front of the present school property. "For many years it accommodated a much larger school under teachers of far superior ability."

Reporting to the Board of Education in 1850, John L. Kanouse, the superintendent of schools, said, "The students are shockingly irregular in their school attendance and my teachers have a strong dislike of the system of 'boarding around'."

Tradition says that a school was once located, in the late 1800's, on the Turnpike just north of the first parsonage.



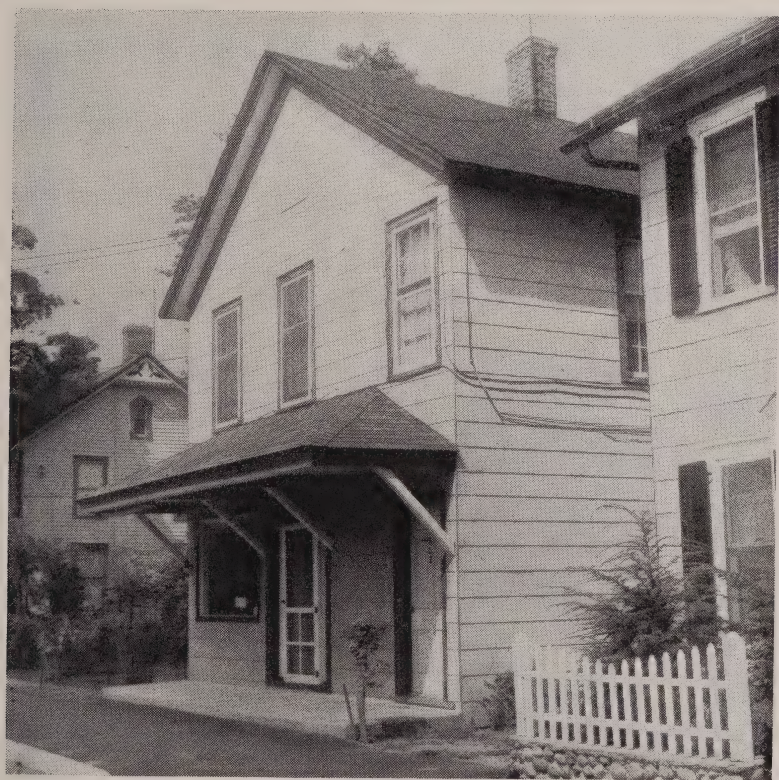
The First Parsonage  
(Rebuilt in 1892 by the grandfather of Albert D. Berry)

No school, however, was established there. It would seem rather, that in the house that formerly stood there, a Mr. Wisewell gave private lessons. He lived in town many years and like Rev. Van Driessen, the first minister of the Reformed Dutch Church, was a teacher "extraordinary."

Several years later: "Notice was given for a special school meeting on Wednesday, May 29th, 1872 to vote on the erection of a new school house and to authorize the trustees to borrow money thought necessary for the purpose—\$1500." The original public notice is now exhibited through the courtesy of Miss Emily Slingerland.



By a majority vote at this or at subsequent elections, it was decided to construct a brick school. The new building was built in the rear of the old school on another lot acquired from the Van Ness property. Part of the "necessary" money was loaned by Alexander Gilland. He, in turn, received title to the old two-story, frame school. Upon completion of the brick school he moved this building to its present location at 602 Turnpike.



The school of the mid-1800's now remodeled  
(Picture window and siding not original)

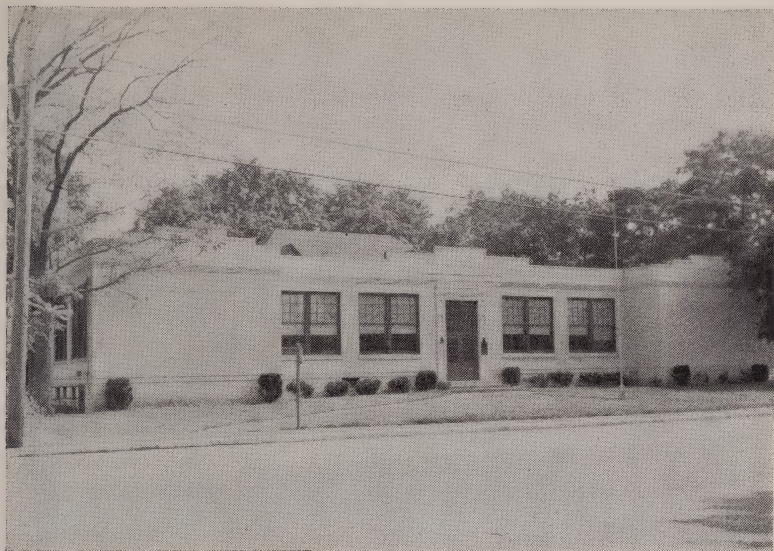


The Brick School near the turn of the century



In 1923 two rooms were added.





The last addition of four rooms was made in 1928.



The Mandeville Inn, which was operated until 1938, was abandoned and finally demolished in 1941 after seven acres of the property had been purchased by the Township. The present Pequannock Valley School was erected on this site in 1950.

To decentralize the school system and so that the grammar schools might better serve populated areas, the North Boulevard School was constructed and opened for kindergarten through fourth grade in 1954.



Butler High School was established in 1902 just after Butler, then known as "West Bloomingdale", separated from Pequannock Township and formed its own government.

Over the years Pequannock became the largest contributor to Butler High School. Its students and tuition fees surpassed those of Butler, as well as all other "sending districts."

When advised that no Pequannock students could start High School after 1955, our Board of Education caused a thorough investigation to be made with the help of professional planners and school experts. Their recommendations and conclusions were, in the main, subsequently approved by a Joint Study Committee and by public referendum.

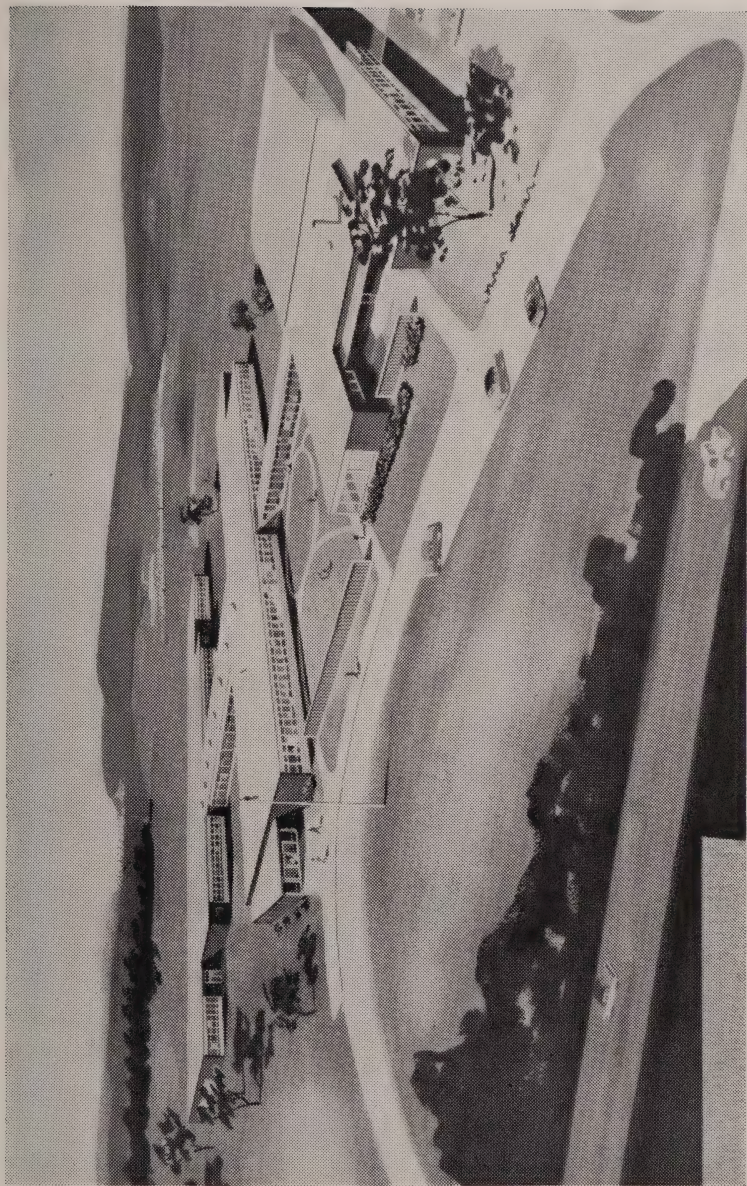
At this writing, contracts totalling more than a million dollars are about to be awarded for the construction of a twenty-five room high school at Sunset Road west of Washburn Road.

*Libraries* also contributed. The Neighborhood Club in 1913 began the Pompton Plains Library at John N. Lanthier's unused real estate office just north of Poplar Avenue, with Mrs. Lanthier as president, Mrs. Eva F. Worden, Librarian. The ladies conducted "cake sales" as a means of raising money. Books were also obtained from Newark and the State Libraries until about 1922 when a travelling County Library was established.

The Township, in 1925, began contributions of .50c per open day and the library was moved to a section of Grace Chapel. The ladies substantial contributions to the building of the Church House established it there for a number of years. Outgrowing these quarters, the library, still under the ladies sponsorship, but with a little more financial assistance from the Township, moved back to its present location in Grace Chapel.

At Pequannock, with similar sponsorship, a library began at the Pequannock School in 1931. Under the leadership of Mrs. Joseph Schmidt, Sr. and Mrs. Daniel Rapalje, Sr. expansion continued, and since 1935 its home has been near the school in a building acquired by the Township upon the death, intestate, of Mr. Charles N. Berg.





Proposed Pequannock High School

## *For Protection*

*The Pompton Society for the Suppression and Detection of Horse Stealing, Shop Lifting, House Breaking, and Every Species of Theft Whatsoever* held its first meeting September 19, 1817. Elected President was Simon Mead, Secretary Robert Colfax, and Treasurer Benjamin Roome. Four "Pursuers" were also selected.

The Society held its semi-annual meetings at the members' homes in Pompton, the Plains, Preakness, Winocky, and Bloomingdale until about 1835. More than sixty members from time to time subscribed and paid from \$1.00 to \$5.00. (Perhaps subscriptions were based on the number of horses or stealable cattle owned by the subscriber.) Yearly dues were 25c and a fee of 12½c was charged for a copy of the By-Laws which stated: Article 6—"That whenever any theft shall be committed upon the goods and chattels, or any Personal Property of any member of this Society, such member may make Immediate application to the President—for a pursuit and said President—according to the emergency of the case shall order out such number of the "Pursuers," in such direction, and for such time and distance as the said President shall think proper."

Article 7—"Every person appointed a Pursuer, shall be a member, and his duty shall be, and he is required, upon being duly notified by the President, to start without delay according to the instructions given to him by the said President, to go in Immediate Pursuit of all Thieves who may have Robbed any member of this Society, and they shall use every means in their Power, and their Discretion for the Detection, apprehension and safe-keeping of such a Thief, or Thieves and Recovery of Such Stolen Property."

Any "duly appointed pursuer" who neglected the duties required (without a good excuse approved and accepted at the next meeting) suffered expulsion from the Society and a forfeit of "all monies by him subscribed."

A 139 year old record book of the society (costing \$1.68 on November 22, 1817) unfortunately reveals no details of the "pursuits" nor crime statistics. It is exhibited through the courtesy of William Lewis Arthur.

Township minutes of April 9, 1896 state "Motion made and carried that Oscar C. Vanderhoof be empowered to have turned-up immediately Thirty Police Clubs so that each officer may be furnished with a Club" and in March of the following year the Town Clerk was instructed to "get 2 pair of hand cuffs and 1 badge."

Pequannock Township's Police Department "practickly" started in 1912 by the appointment of Albert R. De Bow as Chief Marshal. In 1917 Police Chief De Bow with his Model "T" and one or two "specials" became the scourge of all evil doers in North Jersey. Many tales are still told of his methods of apprehending criminals. It mattered not whether they were chicken thieves, parkers, speeders, or operators of a car with one "blinker."

Officers used their own cars (the Chief's second Model "T" having been "souped up" with a "Rukell rear end") until 1936 when the Township purchased a police car. After this the chief was assisted by two full time officers, one of which, Walter L. Sweetman, succeeded to the office of Police Chief upon the passing of Chief De Bow in 1938.





The 1929 Police Department  
*(L-R):* Werden C. Goodmoot, Chief Alfred De Bow, Recorder Robert Stell  
 and Herbert Day

A one way "radio hook-up" with Bergen County Police soon replaced the "porch light signal" from Chief De Bow's home. It was followed by a two way and then a three way radio in the North Jersey Police Radio Network.

With the war in 1941 came the need of more special and auxiliary police. The growth of the Township thereafter increased the demands on the Police Department. In 1955 twenty-four hour desk service was established, together with our own radio transmitter KEE 336 with three way radio in four fire trucks, two "walkies," and three utility trucks, as well as the police car.



*Front (L-R):* Joseph La Placa, Chief Walter Sweetman, Captain Alfred Gilland  
 and Robert Tintle  
*Back:* John Hinchman, Lewis Arthur, Edward Kough and Roy De Bow

Through the efforts of local chairman, Earnest Oakley, the State Department of Civil Defense has joined with the Township in paying one half the cost of a 750 gallon pumper, fire siren, radio and short-wave equipment.

The Pompton Plains Fire Association was organized in April of 1915 at the Mandeville Inn, whose proprietor, George B. Atwood, became the first captain. Money for equipment was raised through public subscription and the "issuance" of \$5.00 Bonds. A "Ford Chassis and Chemical Apparatus" fire engine was purchased and is the second vehicle in the parade which proudly announced its acquisition on November 15.



Before adequate housing could be arranged, a ninety foot barn (rear of the present Plains Post Office) was consumed by fire of incendiary origin. It was, undoubtedly, the efforts of an odd character whose love of pyrotechnical displays was well known at the time. With the barn went the "little beauty" whose first fire became its own funeral pyre.

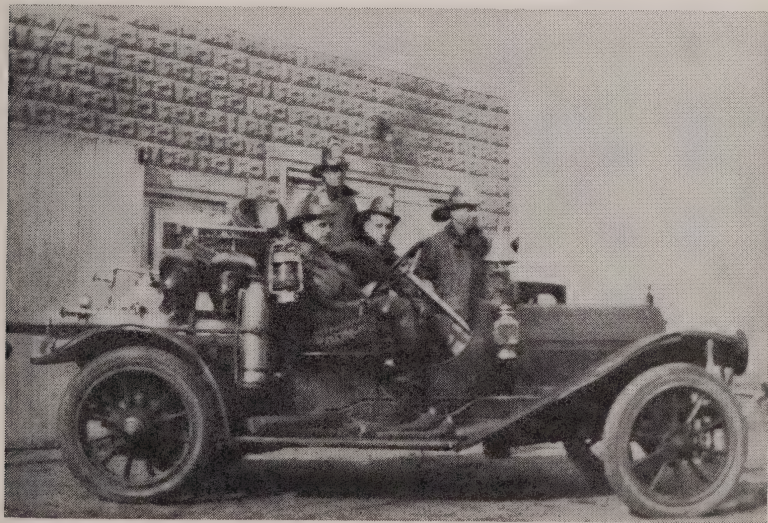
Undaunted, the volunteers and the townspeople with card and chowder parties again raised the necessary funds to purchase (in 1921) a "Buffalo Ford" at a cost of \$3300. In 1929 Mrs. Edward Halsey Peck gave a new \$10,000 American La France fire fighter in memory of her late husband, ever the town's most generous benefactor.





At a celebration of its Fortieth Anniversary last year the present Fire Chief, William Colfax Gilland and the only two remaining Charter Members, Albert D. Berry, former Fire Commissioner, and Roy S. De Bow look over the first record book with William Lewis Arthur, Company secretary and former mayor.

The public service and protection afforded by Volunteer Firemen was quickly recognized and on June 23, 1923 Engine Co. No. 2 was formed in Pequannock. Again through the efforts of the Firemen and contributions from citizens, equipment was purchased.



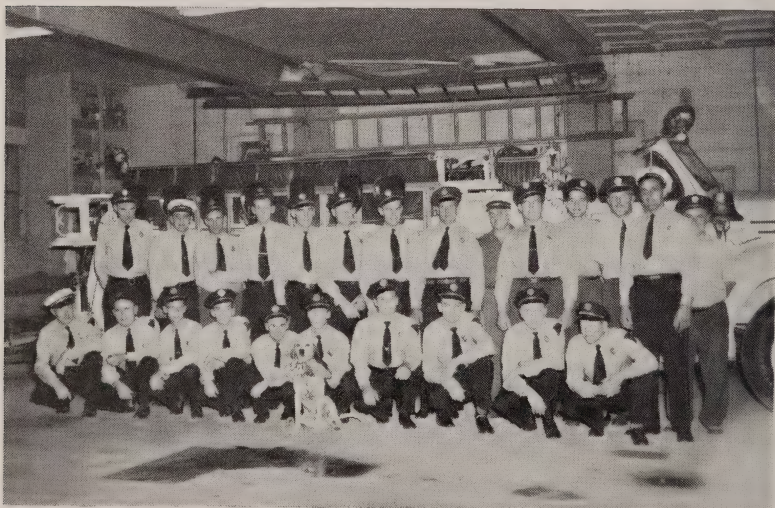
Pequannock's "Chemical Engine" manned by Fire Chief Sweetman and Firemen Fullard, Spae, and Grassi.



In September 1926 the two companies, each maintaining their independence and volunteer status, became part of township government. By so doing, advantages and benefits could be obtained under the State Firemen's Association and tax dollars could be used for new equipment. However, the volunteers always continued through their individual ingenuity and efforts, to provide themselves with the latest type of equipment and fine quarters. A visit to either company's fire house is a pleasant and gratifying experience for any citizen. These pictures also attest to the high quality of men and equipment that are always ready to render assistance in all types of rescue operations.



Engine Co. No. 1



Engine Co. No. 2



## *For Business and Country Living*

"There is a straggling village upon the plain, comprising a Dutch Reformed Church, a tavern, three stores, an academy and about 30 dwellings" . . .

Gordon's History of N. J. 1834

The Mandeville Inn, erected in 1790 by Peter Mandeville was, for a long time, a distinguished landmark of the Plains. Ever a scene of social life and activity "an invitation to a Mandeville function was something to be prized."



At the turn of the century, J. Junge owned the Inn and gave many gala affairs. Friendly with the musicians of the times, Mr. Junge frequently had Jan Paderewski, Fritz Kreisler and Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink as guests. Surely, the Mandeville Inn deserves a prominent place in our memories.

The old map of the "North and South Line" about 1790 shows but 12 buildings along the entire old Turnpike. At its beginning stood the John P. De Bow house previously mentioned.

John Van Saun came from Preakness to marry Rachael, daughter of Ewout Van Gelder and on April 29, 1812 was deeded a portion of the homestead farm.

In 1868 Ewout V. G. Van Saun was elected assessor and served as magistrate and in other offices. Albert W. Van Saun served as Township Clerk 1896-1901 and for numerous years as District Clerk and Magistrate. Last of the Township "Squires" Uncle Al was a lovable character whose outdoor stories will, like himself, forever remain unsurpassed. Being a kindly man, entirely without malice, his tales never hurt or offended anyone. "That's what they wanted to hear" was his accepted excuse for telling any yarn in which the truth, carefully handled, was used sparingly.

After serving terms as magistrate Grant W. Van Saun served as a member and four time Chairman of the Township Committee.



Van Saun Homestead

The "1736 Church" and the "Provost School" were designated as being "opposite the home of Thomas Mandeville."



In this fine old homestead Charles W. and his daughter, Jennie R. Mandeville collected Township taxes from January 1915 to February 1953. From here Charles L. went forth to build his home on Hopper Avenue, where his only son Charles F. was destined to be the last Mandeville born in the Township.

In June 1945, Flight Officer Charles F. Mandeville in the air and far from the land of his birth gave his life to the country founded by his forefathers 25 decades before.



Traveling the old road, we meander a bit to the Martin John Berry house built in 1749, now on State Highway 23.



Ralph Van Houten's home stood near Grace Chapel. The present house is just visible in this 1909 picture of the Poplar Avenue corner.



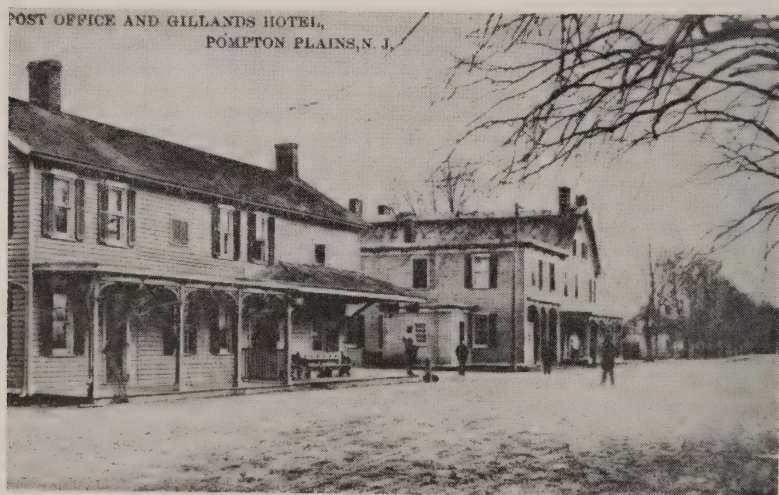
At one time this house was owned and occupied by Philip Tumulty, whose son, Joseph, shortly thereafter became Presidential Secretary to Woodrow Wilson.

The Church, homes of Giles A. Mandeville, and Garrett E. Van Ness are next shown on our old map. It is interesting and pleasing to note that a direct descendant, Jesse E. Van Ness, a skilled craftsman, designed and built the fine woodwork in our new Township building.

A picture taken about 1912 from the Church steeple looks further south into open country with scattered homes and windmills.



For many years, the Turnpike and Jackson Avenue, first as "Berry's" and later as "Gilland's Corner" presented this picture prior to 1909.





Fired by lightning on Sunday afternoon, July 22, 1917 the old hotel was completely destroyed in spite of, or because of, the valiant efforts of too few firemen and too many assistants. At the next Fire Meeting Captain Allen Rogers requested "that there be less shouting and that a stricter fire line be kept."

A residence built by John W. Gilland on the hotel site was removed in 1955 and replaced by a branch of the Butler Bank, which was organized November 1903 after Butler had left Pequannock Township.



Another not to be forgotten building is the "old store" used by the Township for over 26 years as the Township Offices and Police Headquarters. (See page 49).

A "General Store" operated at the corner of Sherman Avenue and the Turnpike from 1907 to 1914 by Albert R. De Bow, a direct descendant and one of the Town's most unforgettable characters. Storekeeper, realtor, auctioneer, baseball manager, fireman, constable, first Chief of Police, poormaster, sportsman and politician "extraordinary."

## *For Industry*

The Pequannock River furnished power for early industries that produced our settlers' needs of food, clothing and shelter. Probably as early as 1712 a "Grist Mill" (for the grinding of grain) and a Saw Mill were located on the river below Federal Hill near the junction of the Newark and Hamburg Turnpikes. Here about 1880 Joseph Slater operated a woolen factory. Also in Riverdale (one time called New Greenwich), about a mile down the river, a carding mill, grist mill, and distillery were erected between 1780 and 1790. A Bark Mill replaced the grist mill in 1843 and was operated by John F. Post in the 1880's.



The stone building shown above still stands at the bend of Post Lane in Riverdale. In 1814 paper was first made in the Township. The paper mill was located at or near the mills of the Pequannock Valley Paper Company now operated by Messrs. Clayton and De Gray White.

Improved transportation methods must have curtailed the demands on our small water powered mills for by 1882 it is recorded that "upstream from the 'woolen factory' stood the only 'grist mill' within the bounds of Pequannock Township."

One of the old mill sites was purchased by the Newsbraugh Hard Rubber Company (August 16, 1869) and a factory operated by water power flumed from the river became the originator of the American Hard Rubber Company. In 1882 it was reported that "these industries have caused quite a village to grow up within ten years on the Pequannock side of the river. This new village contains perhaps sixty dwellings



with about 300 inhabitants, two stores and several shops. It has a post office and has assumed the name of Butler.” Township Minutes of July 29, 1898 state “Agreement Pequannock Township and Chapman and McLean—on the conditions that you will build a factory at Butler within the next six months we will agree to exempt said factory from taxation for a period of five years from January 1899—A. W. Van Saun, Clerk.” The effect of this agreement, if any, was lost when Butler became a separate municipality in 1901.

Continuing subdivision of the Township is shown by the following census tabulation:

1830	4355	
1840	5227	
1850	4118	(Rockaway Township formed 1844).
1860	5440	
1870	1539	(Boonton and Montville Twps. formed 1867).
1880	2239	
1890	2862	
1900	3250	
1910	1921	(Butler Boro formed 1901).
1920	2281	
1930	2102	(Lincoln Park, Kinnelon & Riverdale Boros formed in 1922).
1940	2856	
1950	5257	
1956	8550	(Estimated by Planning Board).

## ASSESSED VALUATIONS

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Real Estate</i>	<i>Personal Property</i>
1881	20,942	\$ 632,604	\$ 108,220
1956	3,712	\$1,660,200	\$5,652,825

From 1922 until 1951 there was only one “factory” in Pequannock Township.

It was built and operated by Thomas Shaw as a cutlery mill about 1900 with Tiffany and Company as customers until 1910. Between 1941-1945 it was Reaction Motors whose increased rocket and jet production soon demanded a larger and less populated area.

In 1952 Ray C. Edwards, who incidentally is no relation to the Township Clerk, moved the Edwards Engineering Company from Paterson to a new modern factory building constructed on the east side of the railroad at Alexander Avenue.



With an addition larger than the original building, this Company now employs about 200 in the manufacturing of heat transfer tubing and other products.

Some of the larger industries now are:

Argyle Cinder Block Co., Mfg.  
Carlson Supply Co.  
Master Diners, Mfg.  
Pequannock Feed and Coal Co.  
Struble Box Mfg.  
Van Ness Lumber Co.  
Tri-State Lumber Co.

During the 1930's there were four sand and gravel industries in the Township. Two have been combined by Samuel Braen (see Recreation), one, located on the Herman Schmidt property (formerly the largest and most successful vegetable farm in the Township) is now Lake Holiday, and the other in "Pine Swamp" now operated by the Pequannock Sand and Gravel Co.





## *For Public Service*

The first evidence of any "public service" in Pequannock Township appears in the minutes of December 28, 1881 as follows:

"Motion ordered that ten sign posts be erected in the Township with letters about 4 inches, the posts to be of cedar and to square 4 inches at the small end. Nine feet long. Sign boards to be bolted and painted with white lead, 2 coats—price \$3.25 each." "The lettering on the boards to state the name of the next place and distance in figures."

The City of Newark, after intense investigation and "civic maneuvering" signed a contract on September 24, 1889 with the East Jersey Water Company for \$6,000,000 to "construct a reservoir in the Pequannock Watershed and to deliver to the city a water supply of 50 M. G. D." In 1900 Pequannock Water from the "Macopin Intake" was turned into the Newark transmission line running diagonally through the Township.

In January 1919 the New Jersey Telephone Company applied for a franchise and presented a map showing several poles to be located near the Mandeville Inn.

Later that year the Tri-County Electric Co. brought electricity from Pompton Lakes into the Township. This small company was taken over by Jersey Central Power and Light Co.

Gas mains were extended to the Township from the Hamburg Turnpike by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company in 1928. These utilities have continued to keep pace with the Township's growth.

A Township Water System was proposed and debated several times during the Twenties. Perhaps the 1937 church fire, heretofore referred to, served to consolidate public opinion. In 1939 the Township Committee received support by public referendum to expend \$47,500 of Township Funds as part of a \$100,000 WPA project. Metered connections to the Newark Mains have, and will continue to provide an adequate supply of fine water. Township water-mains were installed to provide the maximum amount of fire protection over the greatest area with the biggest number of potential users. In 1941 the late Charles W. Van Cleef, one of the town's oldest and most respected citizen, became our first water customer.

The war years and the reluctance of the home owners to give up their private wells, which each claimed to be "the best water you can get," did not immediately contribute to the Water Department's growth. Developments creating new streets were required to install adequate mains and hydrants. The Township, through modest yearly appropriations, continued to expand the system along streets previously established. Since 1954 the Water Department has been self supporting and provides for the cost of its yearly expansion.

In 1955 the Township Committee entered into an agreement with our neighbor, Lincoln Park, to supply water over an eight year period at no expense to either municipality, as the developers would pay for the extension of mains and services. As a result the Township immediately received the benefit of having installed along its own streets more than a half mile of large size mains. By this year's end, the Township will receive revenue from over two hundred customers in Lincoln Park.

Beginning with a modest installation of seven miles of water mains in 1941, we now have over twenty-seven miles with 200 hydrants, and some 2,000 customers will be served by the end of 1956.

The expansion has all been accomplished with an average of four employees and two pieces of motorized equipment, rendering "around the clock" service for the past fifteen years.

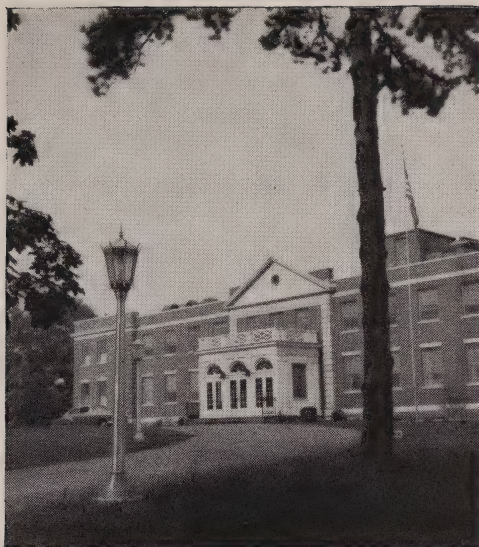


The closed utility truck shown in the picture has just been put into service. Both trucks are equipped with a three way radio system and numbered accordingly.

In 1950, the Pequannock First Aid and Rescue Squad, Inc., through the continuous generosity of Robert F. Magnus, became another valuable "public service." The untiring efforts of the Squad members and officers have been of inestimable value in the saving of life and helping the sick and injured. Their activities are best explained in the "On Call" Booklet—a yearly publication which deserves a place of handiness in every home.

About 1932, Dr. Forrest S. Chilton started buzzing the roads of the Township as well as those to the Paterson General Hospital. His day and night travels (at times he was the only practicing physician in the Township) must have presented many opportunities to think of the value of a hospital in this fast growing area as well as fostered an intense desire to be instrumental in its birth. Dr. Chilton's active leadership and generosity in donating the property site attracted other doctors and public spirited citizens from the entire North Jersey area. With the help and donations of time and money by people from all walks of life, a first class, modern hospital was established. One that is fully equipped to serve the needs of all.





Chilton Memorial Hospital

Post offices preceded the railway with the mails delivered by stage-coach from Mead's Basin to Pequanon which in 1900 became Pequannock. Pompton Plains' first post office was located in the Giles P. Mandeville home (the present Parsonage) and no more than ten or twelve letters per day were handed over the top section of the "Dutch-door" to prevent "tracking in and out."

The predecessors to our genial and accommodating Postmasters George Nock and Ernest Oakley were varied and many because prior to Civil Service the postmaster and his office changed with the power of National Politics. Thus James Van Ness interrupted Alfred Gilland's tenure "on the corner" to operate a post office from the old store built by him. This building became A. R. DeBow's General Store and later the Township Offices shown next to the present post office built in 1955.



## *For Recreation*

An occasional barn dance, husking bee, quilting party, church supper, or just "walking Nellie home" was almost all the recreation that the early farmer had time to enjoy.



Paul Revere Hall, built in 1896 by a then prosperous benevolent organization called the "Junior Order of United American Mechanics," was complete with a lodge meeting room on the second floor and a platform or stage with "ample floor space" on the first. This venerable building has been the scene of more varied activities than any other place in the Township. Entertainments, Minstrel Shows (who, before radio and Television, could ask for more entertainment than a "Men's Club" minstrel with the vaudeville team of Van & Schank as endmen?), wedding parties, Keystone movies (some of the Late Shows were first seen at the Hall). Here weekly court sessions were held, handy to the Township's first and only jail—a strap iron affair in the basement—(occupied primarily by dust and old ballot boxes). It has been the scene of Saturday afternoon Township Committee meetings, part time school and sometimes church sessions. Here Uncle David Van Ness danced his very best to "Redwing." Elections (Election District No. 1 never voted anywhere else), ballet shows, and "Dance Recitals"—old Paul Revere had them all.

After World War II the John H. Lookhoff Post 242 American Legion purchased and refurbished the building, now known as the Legion Home, but the "main floor" is still available for your party.

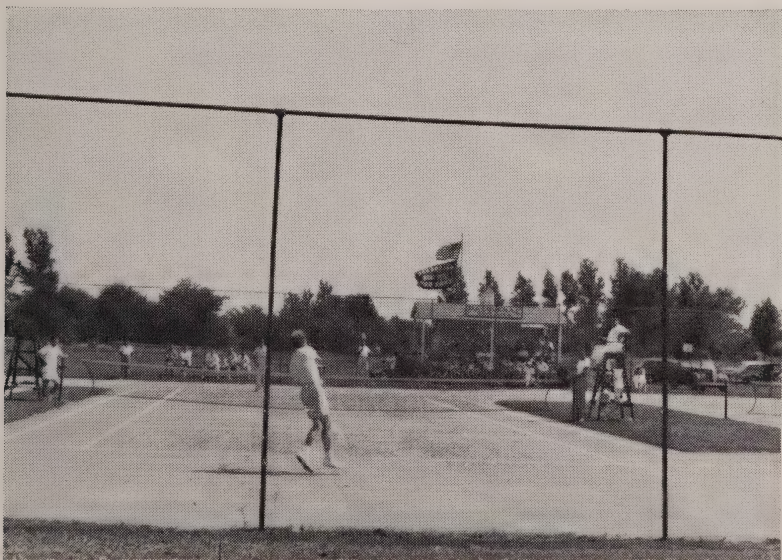


About thirty years later, the building at the corner of the Turnpike and Pequannock Avenue, then known as the "Pequannock Community House," offered a similar service. Later this building was converted to business activity, having never reached in its "heyday" (principally Saturday Nights) the flexibility of its older competitor.

In 1914 the Pacquenac Tennis Club was organized and constructed dirt courts Northeast of Pompton Plains Station. Three years later property was purchased on Sherman Avenue and the membership increased to thirty "active members." The late Richard A. Seaman, one of the finest gentlemen in any organization, was honored in 1939 as Founder, First President, and Twenty-five Year Member. The club's facilities (four fine courts and spacious grounds) were used in the summer of 1954 to assist in the Township's first recreation program.

Periodically baseball clubs were organized and "skinned diamonds" established at various locations. Albert De Bow, "Chief of Polleece" and general store keeper, was the first business manager of the Pompton Plains Athletic Club about 1910 at Hopper and Union Avenues. Baseball continued with the Plains Field Club, near Paul Revere Hall and Pompton Plains Station about 1924. The "Plainsmen" (Turnpike and Woodland Place), about 1935. The first organized Little League used the Station Field in 1954.

No one would have believed in 1920 that the pumping of part of the old De Mott property, to furnish sand and gravel for paving the Turnpike, would years later provide a Municipal Bathing Beach. These operations created a fine body of water which lay idle until purchased in 1950 by Samuel Braen Company for the expansion of sand and gravel production then confined to the property adjoining on the south. The Township Committee proposed that, in return for the attendant loss of land and ratables, the Township use the small pond, and upon completion, the entire seventeen acre lake become Township owned.



*"Sometimes give your services for nothing, calling to mind a previous benefaction or present satisfaction."*

Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.)



The Township Committee appointed the first Recreation Committee for Pequannock Township on February 10, 1953 consisting of John W. Baumann, George Davis, Mrs. Warren Patterson, and Kenneth Snowe. One of its first sub-committees to swing into action was known as the swimming committee. This record would be worthless if it did not recall the hours of volunteer help and assistance furnished by the many who, with their own hands, started Pequannock Valley Park; just as it would be ungratefully negligent not to mention particularly the time, thoughts, labor, services and money donated by Messrs. Ernest Fullard, Joseph Schmidt, Kenneth Snowe and both fire companies. Everyone working together created a wonderful and lasting recreational facility.

In the first year (1953) there were 666 family plan memberships, with an average daily attendance of 575. This average daily attendance in August 1956 was 1,028, and almost 1000 family memberships have been issued to date.

Since 1926 a section of the Township between the Turnpike and the Railroad, north of Jefferson Street, had been "mapped" into small and irregular lots of the "pre-zoning" area.

In 1955 the Township Committee purchased the remaining rights from the 1926 Real Estate Company and the Recreation Committee again turned on the volunteer help and man power. Two Little League fields have been constructed, together with the finest dugouts and press box in the League. Again it was the individual efforts of many persons with special thanks to Irving Shapiro, Howard Martin, Ernest Wolke, Robert Sutter and the 1956 Recreational Supervisor, Raymond Hoch.

Time will show the full potentialities of this property as a complete recreational center—in the center of the Township.



# TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS



William H. Sutton  
Committeeman



Albert F. Arnold  
Mayor



George L. Breen  
Committeeman



Kenneth R. Snowe  
Committeeman



Carl I. Edwards  
Township Clerk



Joseph A. Schmidt  
Committeeman



Stewart De Bow  
Treasurer



Mrs. I. Verkaart  
Tax Collector



Ralph B. Plager  
Magistrate

## *For Government*

In popular government Results worthwhile can only be achieved by men who combine Worthy Ideals with Practical Good Sense . . .

Theodore Roosevelt

On March 25, 1740, one year after the formation of Morris County, the first court met at Morristown and its first business was to divide the new county into three townships. The court records state:

“March 25th MDCCXL.

“General Sessions of the Peace.

“The Court, taking into consideration the necessity of dividing the county of Morris into Proper Townships or Districts, for having proper officers within every such Township or District, and more especially for such officers as are to act in concert with other Townships, we therefore order and Determine that from henceforth a certain Township, bounded on Passaic River, Poquanock River to the lower end of the great pond at the head thereof, and by Rockaway River and the west branch thereof to the head thereof, and thence cross to the lower end of said paid, and shall henceforth be called Poquanock Township, District or Precinct.”

The first officers appointed by the county court for Pequannock were: Robert Gold, “town clerk and town bookkeeper”; Garret Debough (De Bow), assessor; Isaac Vandine, collector; Robert Gold and Frederick Temont (De Mouth?), freeholders; Matthew Vandine and Nicholas Hiler, overseers of the poor; Henderick Morrison and Giles Manderfield (Mandeville), overseers of the highways; John Davenport, constable.

From the above rather vague description, and in spite of the fact that the “clerk” must have been the first of a long line of “poor spellers”, it can be seen that Pequannock Township constituted the Northerly and “largest third” of Morris County.

With the establishing of Roxbury, December 24, 1740, and Mendham, March 29, 1749, as separate Townships, and the clarification of the county boundaries in 1753, Morris County was composed of the five Townships: Pequannock, Hanover, Morris, Mendham and Roxbury until 1798.

Township Meetings were held twice a year and conducted by “viva voce” vote on public questions and the election of officers. This method continued until changed by legislation in 1853. Records of the Township prior to 1865 were reported to “be in the keeping of the Boonton Township Clerk” as late as 1882. No doubt the “Clerk’s Office” was located in Boonton when it became a separate Township in 1867.

We have read all the Township minutes beginning with the year 1868. On Clerk Roome’s minutes is pasted the ballot, then in use, on which he recorded the election results. The candidates’ names, number of votes, and “public questions” are of more than passing interest.



Clerk,  
 BENJAMIN ROOME. - 120 Votes  
 Judge of Election,  
 PAUL B. DeBOW. - 120 Votes  
 Assessor,  
 EWOUT V. G. VAN SAUN. 95 "  
 Collector,  
 SAMUEL DeMOTT. - 143 "  
 Chosen Freeholders,  
 119 - SAMUEL VAN NESS, JACOB Z. BUDD. 120  
 Surveyors of Highways,  
 PETER M. FREDERICKS. - 121 Votes  
 JOHN HENRY VAN NESS. - 121 "  
 Town Committee,  
 THOMAS A. MANDEVILLE. - 121 "  
 RICHARD T. BUDD. - - - 121 "  
 PETER M. FREDERICKS. - - - 121 "  
 JOHN HENRY VAN NESS. - 121 "  
 MARTIN VAN NESS. - - - 118 "  
 Overseer of Poor,  
 SAMUEL J. VAN NESS. 119 "  
 Constables,  
 SAMUEL DeMOTT. - - - 122 "  
 Not 122 JOHN HENRY VREELAND Reception  
 Commissioners of Appeals,  
 RICHARD T. BUDD. - - - 121 Votes  
 RALPH BRINKERHOOF. - - - 121 "  
 BARNEY DeBOW. - - - 121 "  
 Justice of the Peace,  
 ELIJAH KEYHART. - - - 126 "  
 Pound Keepers,  
 DAVID BENJAMIN. - - - 122  
 ELIJAH KEYHART. - - - 120  
 CHARLES H. SANDFORD. - - - 122  
 PAUL H. MANDEVILLE. - - - 124  
 HENRY D. BUSH. - - - 120  
 ANDREW J. SLINGERLAND. - - - 122  
 JOHN P. DeBOW. - - - 122  
 Amount of tax to be raised for repairing and maintaining  
 the highways by hire, fifteen hundred dollars.  
 Amount to be assessed for township purposes, three hun-  
 dred dollars.  
 Amount of tax to be assessed for support of Public  
 Schools, two dollars per scholar.  
 Bounty on Wild Cats, \$2.00 each.  
 Bounty on Foxes, \$1.00 each.  
 Next election to be at the Hotel of Alexander Gillen  
 Piquette Plains.  
 Annual town meeting to be at the house of Alexan-  
 der Gillen, and held on the second Monday of April next.  
 That the Township Committee be authorized to instruct  
 the assessor to raise the aggregate part of the Bounty tax.

At elections held *each* April the entire five Township Committeemen and local officers were *elected yearly* together with two Chosen Freeholders to represent the Township on what was then the "Big Board of Chosen Freeholders" for Morris County.

Yearly elections apparently had little effect as few "defeats" are recorded and each accepted calls to office whenever their health or the public interest dictated. However, in 1869 two "tickets" provided a close contest.

**PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP**  
**People's Ticket**  
**For 1869.**

---

Clerk, *William* ~~BENJAMIN ROOPER~~ *86*  
*Rec<sup>d</sup>* Judge of Election, *Paul B. DeBow* *81*  
 Assessor, *Cornelius M. Mead* *85*  
 Collector, *Samuel DeMott* *85*

Chosen Freeholders,  
*84* JACOB Z. BUDD, EWOUT V. G. VAN SAUN. *82*

Surveyors of Highways,  
*83* HENRY P. DEBOW, WILLIAM P. RAMSEY. *87*

Town Committee,  
*85* NATHAN FAIRBANKS, MARTIN VAN NESS. *87*  
*85* JOHN BLAUVELT, PETER M. FREDERICKS. *87*  
 RICHARD T. BUDD. *84*

Overseer of Poor,  
 SAMUEL J. VAN NESS. *87*

Constable,  
 SAMUEL DEMOTT. *87*

Commissioners of Appeal,  
*85* BALNEY DEBOW, SAMUEL P. ROOME. *86*  
 RALPH R. BRINKERHOOF. *88*

Justice of the Peace,  
 WILLIAM MAINS. *88*

Pound Keepers,  
*88* DAVID BENJAMIN, ELIJAH KEVHART. *88*  
*88* CHARLES H. SANFORD, PAUL H. MANDEVILLE. *88*  
*88* HENRY D. BUSH, LUCAS B. MANDEVILLE. *88*  
 JOHN P. DEBOW.



*Whole ticket Elected*

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP  
**Republican Ticket**  
For 1869.

<i>Rec<sup>d</sup></i>	Town Clerk,	<i>105 Votes</i>
	GARRET M. VANNESS.	
"	Judge of Election,	<i>110 "</i>
	PETER M. FREDERICKS.	
"	Assessor,	<i>106 "</i>
	BENJAMIN ROOME.	
"	Collector,	<i>110 "</i>
	SAMMEL DEMOTT.	
<i>109</i>	Chosen Freeholders,	
	SAMUEL VANNESS.	<i>109</i>
	JACOB Z. BUDD.	
<i>105</i>	Surveyors of Highways,	
	WILLIAM P. RAMSAY,	<i>110</i>
	PETER J. ROOME.	
	Town Committee,	
<i>110</i>	THOMAS A. MANDEVILLE,	<i>110</i>
<i>110</i>	RICHARD T. BUDD,	<i>110</i>
	RALPH R. BRIJCKERHOOF,	<i>110</i>
	MARTIN VANNESS,	<i>110</i>
	ABRAHAM MANDEVILLE.	<i>110</i>
	Overseer of Poor,	
	SAMUEL J. VANNESS.	<i>110</i>
	Constables,	
<i>110</i>	SAMUEL DEMOTT,	<i>110</i>
	ABRAHAM GOULD.	
	Commissioners of Appeal,	
<i>110</i>	JAMES B. BEAM,	<i>110</i>
	JACOB SLINGERLAND,	<i>110</i>
	ALEXANDER GILLAND.	<i>110</i>
	Pound Keepers,	
<i>110</i>	DAVID BUDD,	<i>110</i>
	ELIJAH KATHART,	<i>110</i>
<i>110</i>	CHARLES H. SANFORD,	<i>110</i>
<i>110</i>	PAUL H. MANDEVILLE,	<i>110</i>
<i>110</i>	HENRY D. BUSH,	<i>110</i>
<i>110</i>	ANDREW J. SLINGERLAND,	<i>110</i>
	JOHN P. DEBOW,	<i>110</i>
	JAMES J. DECKER.	<i>110</i>

Amount of Tax to be raised for repairing and maintaining the Highways, by hire, Fifteen Hundred Dollars.

Amount to be assessed for township purposes, Three Hundred Dollars.

Amount of Tax to be assessed for support of Public Schools, Two Dollars per scholar.

Bounty on Foxes, \$1.00 each; bounty on Wild Cats, \$2.00 each; bounty on Weasels, 25 cents each.

Next State election and annual Town Meeting to be held at the hotel of Alexander Gilland, Pompton Plains.

That the Township Committee be authorized to instruct the Assessor to raise the aggregate part of the Bounty Tax.

That the State fund and interest of surplus revenue be appropriated to school purposes.

*Elected by the above votes*

These "tape" ballots were rolled and dropped through a small round hole in the metal ballot box cover. Such a cover has been preserved and is exhibited in our new building.

In March 1879 a Republican and Democratic Ticket was first presented and only three members elected to the Township Committee. The Committee was increased to five members by referendum in 1929. Old and honored family names will be noted on the list of Township Committeemen which follows:

Thomas A. Mandeville .....	<b>1868</b> , 1869
Richard T. Budd .....	1868, 1869, <b>1870</b> , <b>1872</b> , <b>1881</b> , <b>1882</b> , 1888, <b>1889</b> , <b>1890</b>
Martin Van Ness .....	1868, <b>1869</b>
Peter M. Fredericks .....	1868
John Henry Van Ness .....	1868
Abraham Mandeville .....	1869
Ralph R. Brinkerhoff .....	1869, 1870, 1871
William Jones .....	1870, 1871
John P. Post .....	1870, 1871, 1872, <b>1873</b> , <b>1874</b> , <b>1875</b> (P), <b>1876</b> , <b>1877</b> , <b>1878</b> , <b>1879</b> , <b>1880</b>
Henry P. De Bow .....	1870, 1871, 1872, 1878, 1879
Moses S. Crane .....	1872
James Tintle .....	1872, 1873, 1874, 1876
E. W. Van Ness .....	1873
John A. Van Orden .....	1873, 1874, <b>1875</b> (P)
James Smith .....	1873, 1874, 1875, 1876
Elisha W. Martin .....	1874
Levi S. Lines .....	1875, 1876, 1877
Samuel S. Slingerland .....	1875, 1877, 1878
George W. Francisco .....	1875, 1876, 1877
Samuel De Mott .....	1876, 1882, <b>1883</b> , <b>1884</b> , <b>1885</b> , 1886, 1887, <b>1895</b> , <b>1896</b> , <b>1897</b>
John H. M. Berry .....	1876, 1877, 1878
Augustus J. Spencer .....	1878, 1879, 1880(P)
H. W. Mather .....	1880
Franklin Mandeville .....	1880(P), 1881
Martin Cook .....	1881, 1882, 1883
Thomas Benjamin .....	1883, 1884, 1885, <b>1886</b> , 1887, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1896
Edward J. Lewi .....	1884, 1885
Theodore E. Cox .....	1886, <b>1887</b> , <b>1888</b>
Franklin L. Lewi .....	1889, 1890, 1891
Barney C. Demarest .....	1890, <b>1891</b> , <b>1892</b>
William Decker .....	1892(P)
John Haycock .....	1892
John Cullen .....	<b>1893</b> , 184, 1895
Joseph R. Miller .....	1893, <b>1894</b>
Harvey Hosier .....	1894, 1895, 1896(P)



Oscar C. Vanderhoff .....	1896, 1897, 1898
James J. Mandeville .....	1897, 1898, <b>1899</b>
Samuel Bogert .....	<b>1898</b> , 1899
Jessie Ward .....	1899
Garrett D. Smith .....	<b>1900</b>
Giles M. Roome .....	1900, 1901, <b>1902</b>
Charles W. Mandeville .....	1900, <b>1901</b>
Charles N. Cook .....	1901, 1902, <b>1903</b>
Andrew J. Slingerland .....	1903, 1904, 1905, <b>1906</b> , 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912
Thomas Dodd .....	1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, <b>1908</b> , <b>1909</b> , <b>1910</b> , <b>1911</b> , <b>1912</b> , 1913
Fred W. Ricker .....	<b>1904</b> , <b>1905</b> , 1906, <b>1907</b> , 1908, 1909, 1910, <b>1911</b> , 1912, <b>1913</b>
F. M. Prescott .....	1913, 1914
Harry Comly .....	<b>1914</b> , 1915, 1916, <b>1917</b> , 1918, <b>1919</b> , <b>1920</b> , 1921, 1922
Edward Trent .....	1914, <b>1915</b> , 1916, 1917, <b>1918</b> , 1919, 1921, 1922
Chester L. Hall .....	1915, <b>1916</b> , 1917
Harry A. Van Ness .....	1918
George C. Pellett .....	1919, <b>1921</b> , <b>1922</b> , <b>1924</b> , <b>1925</b> , <b>1926</b> (P)
Wilton G. Mead .....	1920
William M. Hutcheson .....	1920
C. S. Wandling .....	1922
Martin Mathews .....	<b>1923</b>
Warren Parker .....	1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927
James A. Lyon .....	1923, 1924
Wallace Kinsey .....	1924, 1925
Robert Stell .....	1925, <b>1926</b> (P), <b>1927</b> (P)
Charles Norman .....	1926, <b>1927</b> (P), <b>1928</b> , 1929
Philip Umstadter .....	1928, 1929, 1930, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944
J. F. Chapman .....	<b>1929</b> , 1930, 1931
W. S. Sutherland .....	<b>1930</b> , <b>1931</b> , <b>1932</b>
Peter MacGregor .....	1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934
Clarence Utter .....	1930, 1931, 1932
Fred F. Meyer .....	1931, 1932, <b>1933</b>
Conger Munson .....	1932, 1933, <b>1934</b> , 1936(P)
Frank Bridge .....	1933, 1934, <b>1935</b> , 1939, 1940, 1941
George French .....	1933, 1934, 1935
Warden C. Goodmoot .....	1934, 1935, <b>1936</b>
Willard Jones .....	1935, 1936, <b>1937</b> , <b>1938</b> , 1939
John R. Reynolds .....	1936, 1937, 1938, <b>1939</b> , <b>1940</b> , <b>1941</b>
Harry Stanley .....	1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945

First appointed in 1936 and then elected to serve the term of her late husband, Mrs. Conger Munson is the only lady to have served on the Township Committee—1936(P), 1937, 1938.

Grant W. Van Saun .....	1939, 1940, 1941, <b>1942</b> , <b>1943</b> , <b>1944</b> , 1945, <b>1946</b>
William Bergfels .....	1942, 1943, 1944, <b>1945</b> , 1946
James Wickstead .....	1942, 1943, 1944
W. Lewis Arthur .....	1945, 1946, <b>1947</b> , <b>1948</b> , 1949, 1950, <b>1951</b> , <b>1952</b>
Emmet Petrin .....	1945, 1946, 1947
Paul A. Cronenwett .....	1946, 1947, 1948, <b>1949</b> , <b>1950</b> , 1951
Harry Hearle .....	1946, 1947, 1948
Albert F. Arnold .....	1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, <b>1955</b> , <b>1956</b>
John P. Ryan .....	1948, 1949, 1950
Leslie W. Collins .....	1949, 1950, 1951, 1952
William H. Sutton .....	1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956
George L. Breen .....	1952, <b>1953</b> , <b>1954</b> , 1955, 1956
John J. Magee .....	1953, 1954, 1955
Joseph Schmidt, Jr. ....	1953, 1954, 1955, 1956
Kenneth R. Snowe .....	1956

Heavy type indicates year of Chairmanship.

(P) indicates part of year.

Someone has said that "the Secretary or Clerk is the most over worked and least appreciated member of any organization."

All Municipal Clerks have long been aware of this fact, yet, perhaps because of it, they seem determined to continue in office. The Clerk's daily interpretation of a Town's laws and ordinances (which are primarily designed to control and prohibit) results in many "noes" to one "yes" ("Anyway he had to say yes—after all—what do I pay taxes for?"). The "noes" multiplied by years in office are not calculated to increase the Clerk's popularity. Of the 11 Township Clerks elected over the past 88 years, Albert Van Vorhees deserves special mention for serving many years on a yearly election basis.

## TOWNSHIP CLERKS

Benjamin Roome—1 Year .....	1868
Garret M. Van Ness—3 Years .....	1869-1871
Ralph R. Brinkerhoff—1 Year .....	1872
John Blauvelt—3 Years .....	1873-1874-1886
Albert Van Vorhees—14 Years .....	1875-1885 & 1889-1891
Franklin L. Lewi—2 Years .....	1887-1888
Abraham Ryerson—1 Year .....	1892
Artemas Zeliff, Jr.—3 Years .....	1893-1895
Albert W. Van Saun—6 Years .....	1896-1901
Joseph J. Pellett—30 Years .....	1902-1931
C. O. Frost—1 Year .....	1932-Appointment
Carl I. Edwards—23 Years .....	1933-1956



## FROM THE MINUTES

### Monday, MARCH 30, 1873

"Resolved by the Committee that Joseph Cole be paid one hundred dollars for a horse lost by breaking his leg. Stepping into a hole in road in District No. 13 and breaking his leg in consequence, near residence of Bartley Hart."

### AUGUST 15, 1876 (A Very Typical Meeting)

"Pursuant to notice given the Township Committee of Pequannock Township met at the hotel of Alexander Gilland, Pompton Plains on Tuesday, August the 15th, 1876 for the purpose of receiving Sheep Bills for damages done by dog or dogs also to revise the assessors duplicate and such other business as might come before the Committee."

"Organized and accepted the following:

Sheep Bills—John P. Maybe—Two Bills \$14.00.

Harris Van Zyle—One Bill \$5.00.

Remitted \$5.00 on Montclair Railroad Tax being amount of road bed. The meeting was then adjourned."

### Monday Evening, SEPT. 17, 1877

"A motion was made and carried that the Clerk notify John Ackerson, Samuel DeMott and Tunis Ryerson to open the new road in their respective road district forthwith so far as they can without disturbing the crops now standing or growing upon the same. On motion, adjourned, J. F. Post, Chairman, Albert Van Vorhees, Clerk."

### MARCH 3, 1888

"On account of severe blizzard which kept the town clerk and all other officers of the Election from coming to the polls no election could be held on this day."

### 1902—Abraham Ryerson elected Sheriff



*Front Row (left to right):* Harry Berry, William Comly, Abraham Ryerson, Unknown, Charles Cook

*Rear:* Unknown, James A. Lyon, John F. Post, Andrew Slingerland, Thomas Benjamin, Albert R. DeBow, Unknown, Unknown

## 1908—James A. Lyon elected to State Legislature



*Front Row (left to right):* James Van Ness, Robert Slater, James Lyon,  
Harry Berry, Irving Titus  
*Rear:* Albert Richards, Albert R. DeBow, George Stagg, Robert J. Stell, John Lyon

## 1934—Conger Munson, Chairman



*Front Row:* Willard M. Jones, Samuel Raft, Carl I. Edwards, Conger Munson,  
Frank Bridge, Jr., Peter MacGregor, Philip Umstadter  
*Rear Row:* E. W. Stillman, Albert D. Berry, William Decker, George Jeffries, John  
Kilcommons, Fred Fullard, Gilbert Baum, Walter Sweetman, Robert Stell,  
Edward Courten, Andrew Tilley, Charles L. Mandeville, James W. Speed,  
John Danner, Fred Sieling, John Droshin



## Arthur F. Worden retires in Dec. 1944 after 11 years as Township Treasurer



*Seated Left to Right:* Emmett Petrin, Albert Arnold, Andrew Tilley, William Lewis Arthur, Irving Worden, Peter Kamm, Grant Van Saun, Leo Kerwin, Edward Jones, Ralph Plager, Arthur Worden, William N. Smith, John Breen, Carl Edwards, Harold Moore, John Ryan, James White, Peter MacGregor.

*Standing:* Patsy Roccesano, Albert D. Berry, David Young III, James Wickstead, Charles Vreeland, Alex Hearle, Edward Coursen, Horace Hearle, Walter Sweetman, John McNaughton, Paul Roach, Charles L. Mandeville, John Spae.

### TOWNSHIP OFFICE

The first record that we find indicating thoughts of a municipal building is the referendum on November 5, 1929 for a \$50,000 Municipal Building Bond Issue. Probably because no plans and no location was presented, the voters were well justified in rejecting the proposition.

In 1930 a "Township Office" was established in the old De Bow store building. At first there were but two desks, separated by a "Pot-bellied stove" and the Clerk and Chief took turns policing the office.

The old strap iron jail was brought down from Paul Revere Hall, set up in the back room, and again collected "cob-webs" and ballot boxes. As more office space became necessary, the jail was disposed of, and the ballot boxes were stored in wood benches built along the wall for that purpose.

One local "floor manager" of a minority party insisted after a close state election, that he be allowed to "mount guard" over the ballots. He was told that if he stopped jumping up and down and remained seated he would only be separated from the sealed ballot boxes by the thickness of his trousers and one piece of plywood.

In 1954 the Township took over the second floor of the building for a police headquarters together with work space for the Collector and Assessors.

## TOWN HALL

The Township Committee began in 1952 to budget a capital fund for a Municipal Building. The Church acquired the "old Brown" property in 1949 and sold all the land East of the Railroad to the developers of Pompton Plains Village, at which time the remains of the proud house of Garret Van Ness were removed.

Negotiations between the Church Consistory and the Township Committee for the purchase of property began in 1952, and terminated in 1954, with the Township buying the entire property subject to the following:

"That a building of Colonial type architecture in harmony with the principle building of the Church be erected within five years." A lease or agreement further provides that the parking area be paved, maintained and landscaped by the Township with the Church having "the right to use the said area for parking at all times and as nearly as possible the exclusive right to use same for parking purposes on Sundays and for other religious occasions."

After interviewing architects the Township Committee selected Raymond B. Flatt, who had also designed the Chilton Hospital. Bids were received on June 7, 1955 under the various categories as required by law, and awards were made to the low bidders to the extent that funds were available.

In March 1956 \$43,500 Municipal Building Bonds were sold at 2.8% to complete the financing of the building cost of \$100,000.

The Township Committee and Township Clerk have from the beginning constituted the Building Committee and have planned the layout of offices and utilities. The architect has been responsible for the structural design and materials as well as architectural appearance of the exterior and interior.

The Township Engineer has been in charge of the development of the site and grounds. All services, except those of the architect, have been donated without cost to the Township.

### *For Information*

At this point in our "Historical Discourse" it is no longer possible to make one picture worth a thousand words. We therefore, offer an apology to the many public spirited citizens whose value and service to the Township is, of necessity, gratefully acknowledged by "name and title" in the 1956 Roster.

#### Engineer

Edward D. Coursen

#### Building Inspector

Chester Sitgreaves

#### Board of Assessors

David P. Ramsey

Edward Godfrey

L. W. Tompkins, Sec.

#### Attorneys

Young and Sears

#### Auditor

John W. Wehman Co.

#### Board of Adjustment

George A. Ferris, Pres.

Elizabeth D. Eley, Sec.

Noel S. Chamberlin

Paul Robinson



Treasurer  
     Stewart De Bow  
 Tax Collector  
     Mrs. Isabelle M. Verkaart  
 Police Chief  
     Walter L. Sweetman  
 Fire Chiefs  
     W. Colfax Gilland  
     William E. Schmidt  
 Water Superintendent  
     Carl I. Edwards  
 Magistrate  
     Ralph B. Plager  
 Shade Tree Commission  
     William Van Alen, Pres.  
     Loren Vanderlyn, Sec.  
     John B. Lyon  
 Welfare Director  
     Mrs. T. A. Olson  
 Local Assistance Board  
     Mrs. Elizabeth D. Eley, Sec.  
     Mrs. Daniel Rapalje, Sr.  
     Kenneth R. Snowe  
 Planning Board  
     Henry R. Williams, Chairman  
     LeRoy C. Starr, Sec.  
     Albert F. Arnold  
     Robert E. Beers  
     William D. Kean  
     Alvin C. Roworth  
     Chester Sitgreaves  
     Kenneth R. Snowe  
 Recreation Committee  
     John Gleason Chrm.  
     Mrs. Warren Patterson, Sec.  
     Charles Campbell  
     Ernest J. Fullard  
     Irving Shapiro  
     Joseph A. Schmidt  
     Ernest Wolke  
 Dog Warden  
     Patsy Roccesano

Flood Control Committee  
     Rudolph Wawra, Chrm.  
     William F. Demarest, Vice-Chm.  
     Elizabeth D. Eley, Sec.  
     William Lewis Arthur  
     Frank Casey  
     Edward D. Coursen  
     Fraser Hunter  
     Athos D. Leveridge  
     Joseph Martin  
     Henry P. McKay  
     William Santifort  
     Donald A. Swazey  
     Mrs. Violet Titus  
     Hugo J. Wolff  
 Members Ex-Officio  
     Walter O. Kohler  
     George L. Breen  
     Kenneth R. Snowe  
     William H. Sutton  
     Fred Baldinger  
 Safety Committee  
     Kenneth R. Snowe, Chrm.  
     William H. Clevely, Sec.  
     Raymond Bogert  
     Stephen Gerace, Ed.D.  
     Charles W. McCorristin  
     Judge Ralph B. Plager  
     George E. Randolph  
     Chief Walter L. Sweetman  
     M. A. Sabanosh  
     Walter Witteck  
 Board of Health  
     Joseph A. Schmidt, Pres.  
     Mrs. M. R. Airey,  
         Sec. & Exec. Officer  
 Plumbing Inspector  
     George P. Umstadter  
 Registrar  
     Phoebe M. Edwards  
 Medical Inspector  
     Kurt Manrodt, M.D.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION 1956

Lester A. Vreeland III, *President*  
 Lewis F. Allen  
 Richard J. Dericks, *Vice-President*  
 Louis J. Baumbach  
 Vincent B. Bray  
 Mrs. Catherine M. Lamoureaux,  
     *District Clerk*

Lester E. Demler  
 E. Milton Hackney  
 Mead F. Stevens  
 Gregory N. Tyack  
 Stephen J. Gerace, Ed.D.  
     *Supt. of Schools*

REGULAR MEETINGS:

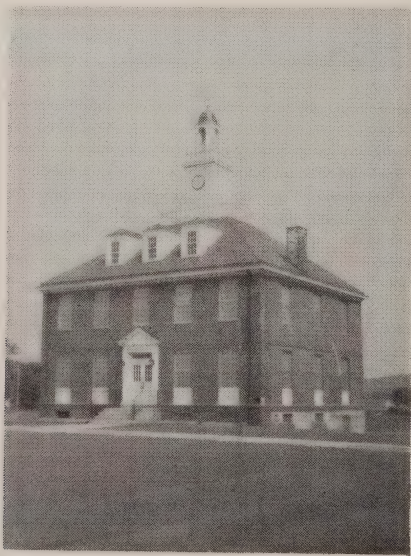
Township Committee—2nd Tuesday of each month .....	8:00 P.M.
Board of Adjustment—4th Thursday of each month .....	8:00 P.M.
Municipal Court—Wednesday evening .....	8:00 P.M.
Planning Board—4th Monday of each month .....	8:00 P.M.

The Police and Emergency Telephone Number .....TERhune 5-1700  
will be continued in our new Municipal Building.

Other Township Business will use .....TERhune 5-5700

Paper ballots were replaced by voting machines in Morris County at the 1955 General Election. Also at that election the voters, by a majority of five votes, approved changing the form of government from Township Committee to Township Council-Manager.

At this November’s general election five members will be elected to the “Township Council.” Those elected will select one of their number as Mayor, as well as appoint a Township Manager for the continuance of good Township government.



The Municipal Building  
(Picture taken September 2, 1956)



## *For the Future*

Ye rigid Plowmen! Bear in mind  
Your labor is for future hours.  
Advance! spare not nor look behind!  
Plow deep and straight with all your powers!  
"The Plow" Richard Henry Hengist Horne  
(1803-1884)



The artist has depicted our new home with the addition of perhaps a Township Library and increased space for municipal functions. Five years? Ten years? Who can say how soon.

## **YOUR TOWN**

If you want to live in the kind of a town  
Like the kind of a town you like,  
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip  
And start on a long, long hike.  
For you'd only find what you left behind—  
There's nothing that's really new.  
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your town.  
It isn't the town—it's you.

Real towns are not made of men afraid  
Lest somebody else gets ahead.  
When everybody works and nobody shirks  
You can raise a town from the dead,  
And if while you make your personal stake  
Your neighbor may make one too.  
You can make a town what you want it to be  
It isn't the town—it's you.

—Unknown

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We herewith attempt to thank, in print, all those whose information and advice has been of inestimable value. To those not mentioned (someone always gets left out) please accept this, as personal and sincere thanks.

William Lewis Arthur  
David Benjamin  
Albert D. Berry  
Mrs. Richard Colfax  
The Rev. John H. Dericks  
Mrs. Andrew Graham  
William J. F. Hannemann  
Mrs. William Heil (nee Van Ness)  
Pastor Raymond Hopper  
The Rev. Edwin Thomas Jones  
John N. Lanthier  
James A. Lyon  
Gerald May  
Daniel McKeown  
Mrs. George Nock  
Mrs. Clarabell Parker (nee Ryerson)  
George Parr  
Mrs. Lillian Polhemus (nee Mandeville)  
Miss Helen Ryerson  
Miss Aletha Slingerland  
Miss Emily Slingerland  
Miss Clarissa Van Cleef  
Mrs. Grace Van Cleef (nee Mandeville)  
Jesse Van Ness  
Mr. and Mrs. Grant Van Saun  
Mr. and Mrs. De Witt Voorhis

Every page reflects the skill of Carl Ronald Edwards as a researcher and editor. His initiative and help, amounting at times to collaboration, and without which all would have been lost, is gratefully acknowledged by his father.















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